

GEN. ARTHUR'S GUESTS.

THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST PUBLIC RECEPTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

A Notably Brilliant Affair—Honors to ex-President Grant—Dinner and Entertainment for Members of the Cabinet—Other Society Notes.

Although the Lenten period has not yet closed, and the faithful are supposed to be in a penitential mood, and figuratively, at least, clothed in sackcloth and ashes, yet thus far the season at the National Capital has been one of exceptional brilliancy. Since the arrival of General and Mrs. Grant, as the President's guests, there has been many notably brilliant entertainments. On Tuesday evening President Arthur gave his first public reception at the White House, which was thronged with the wealth, beauty, and fashion of Washington. The throng was made up of diplomatic, civil, and military dignitaries, congressmen, private citizens, and strangers sojourning in the city. Invited guests, the ladies and gentlemen who participated in the reception, and members of the diplomatic corps gained an entrance to the mansion through the windows opening on the southern front by a temporary stairway. The interior of the house, seen to the majority of the guests in its new dressing for the first time, never appeared to better effect. The main corridor was tastefully decorated with tropical plants and ferns. Each of the niches was filled with handsome jars holding tall plants, and each of the settees placed along the long hall looked embowered in the surrounding foliage. The end of the corridors, near the conservatories, were especially decorated. The brilliant colors of the carpet contrasted with the white-blossomed bushes ornamenting the tables and stairs.

The conservatories were lighted but were not opened to the public. The State dining-room was used as a cloak room for ladies. Adjoining this room, in the red parlor, the ladies joined their escorts and proceeded into the blue parlor, where the receiving party stood. The floral decorations of the blue parlor were simple, but artistic. The mantles held potted plants, and against the central windows were grouped a mass of white azalea trees. The other windows and hearths were filled in with some flowers in crimson and pink blossoms.

The centre of attraction in the green parlor were the picture of Mrs. Hayes resting against the wall, and the silver boat with its burden of sweet odors and pretty flowers. Owing to the crowd expected, the space in the east room was not taken up with unnecessary floral display. The mantels were tastefully adorned with flowers, and against the curtain draperies very effective pyramids of palms and ferns were placed.

THE TOILETS.

The President wore a full suit of black, with low-cut vest and white gloves. The introductions were made by Colonel Rockwell, the President accompanying the pronunciation of each name with a smile and a hearty shake hands. In the earlier part of the reception Mrs. Frelinghuysen stood next the President, but when Mrs. Grant arrived she resigned that position to the President's guest. Mrs. Grant wore a white satin dress, with long square train. Two deep flounces of point lace formed the front draping, beaded with pomegranates. The low-cut waist was outlined with ruffles of point and the neck filled in with tulle. The diamond roses glittered in her hair, with a coronet of diamonds, the design being tiny horseshoes linked. She also wore earrings and brooch of diamonds and pearls, with a pearl necklace of many strands, caught with a diamond buckle. On her right arm was a gold bracelet curiously carved, over three inches in depth, and on the left were a half dozen gold-hackle bracelets. She wore no flowers, and carried a fan of black feathers. Mrs. Grant's manner was exceedingly pleasant, and she was kept busy acknowledging all her old friends as they passed.

Mrs. Frelinghuysen, who stood next, wore a handsome black moire antique trimmed with thread lace. In her hair she wore a white satin head-dress. Next to the ladies stood the following, in the order named: Mrs. Secretary Hunt, who wore a mourning costume of black Henrietta cloth, gracefully made, and a corsage bouquet of white carnations and foliage; Mr. Senator McPherson, dressed in white, the front elaborately garnished with crystal bead embroidery, long court train of satin, edged by various plaits; Mrs. Senator Cameron, cream white satin brocade, trimmed handsomely in pearl pomegranates—she also wore many handsome stones and most becoming floral garniture; Mrs. Senator Hale, black velvet court petticoat, neck cut V shape and filled in with rare lace; Mrs. Craig Wadsworth, of New York, heliotrope velvet, with court train of mauve satin merveilleux; Mrs. John Davis, white brocade court train, with front and sleeves of pearl-headed Spanish lace, neck cut square, and filled in with ruffles of Spanish lace and diamond necklace.

NOTABLES PRESENT.

Most of the gentlemen of the diplomatic corps were present. Among those in attendance were the Portuguese minister, the Chinese minister and other members of that embassy, and the Japanese minister. Madame Preston, the wife of the Haytian minister, wore a cream-tinted silk, combined with moire antique, and trimmed with oriental lace. The waist and entire front were ornamented with handsome roses. Miss Preston wore a white satin-striped grenadine, with a long puffed train. The waist had a high over-lapping collar, on which were embroidered bouquets of daisies. The same effect was repeated on the broad upturned cuffs; gilded noons edged the basque. Mrs. Commissioner Loring wore, over pink silk, white muslin and lace.

A representative group of young ladies consisted of Miss Matthews, white silk, with silk embroidered ruffles and long pleated train; Miss Balch, heavy white gown, with sleeves embroidered in white silk and sach of black velvet; Miss Porter, white satin court train waist, cut low and edged with ruffles of tulle, strands of pearl, tied with narrow pink ribbons, worn round the neck; Miss Barnes, white satin, with draperies of tulle, pointed waist, cut low and garnished with floral wreath; Miss Ida Farrell, pearl brocade, elaborately trimmed with white lace.

Among other persons present were Gen. Grant, Secretaries Frelinghuysen, Lincoln

and Hunt, Attorney-General Brewster, Chief Justice Waite, and Justices Matthews and Hunt, Gen. Beall, Col. James G. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Fish, Col. Fred. Grant, Commissioner Dent, and Mr. Seville, who attracted great attention among those who knew him.

OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS.

The President gave a dinner party on Wednesday of last week, and entertained a large number of guests. This dinner was not given expressly to General and Mrs. Grant, but as it was known in advance of issuing the invitations that they would be present, most of those invited were special friends of theirs, as well as of the President. This is the second time they have dined in state at the Executive Mansion since they gave a state dinner there to their immediate successors, the President-elect and Mrs. Hayes. At that dinner, Senator Don Cameron (he then being Secretary of War) and his daughter were present, and also Mr. Robeson, then Secretary of the Navy, and his wife. The latter couple and Senator Cameron were at the dinner last week. In fact, Mr. and Mrs. Robeson have been present every time General and Mrs. Grant have dined at the White House in five years, beginning with the farewell dinner named, for they also attended that given by the President and Mrs. Hayes to General and Mrs. Grant on December 15, 1880.

Two others who were members of General Grant's Cabinet are now in the city, who were not at the dinner on Wednesday—Ex-Secretary Belknap and Ex-Attorney General Williams. Secretary and Mrs. Frelinghuysen have been guests at all the dinners given by President Arthur since he began giving formal banquets, beginning with that of February 11 in honor of his Cabinet, except that given a week ago. They are special friends of long standing of General and Mrs. Grant.

On Tuesday evening, at the dinner given by Secretary and Mrs. Frelinghuysen, there were present the President, Ex-President Grant and wife, Acting Vice-President Davis, Ex-Secretary Fish and wife, Justices Bradley and Gray, Secretary Folger, and others.

General and Mrs. Grant, Ex-Secretary and Mrs. Fish, Ex-Secretary Robeson's wife and others, whose faces were familiar during the Grant administration, called on Secretary Frelinghuysen's wife and daughters at their afternoon reception Wednesday, which was largely attended.

Secretary Folger's daughter also had a large reception on Wednesday. The receptions at the residences of the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury have been held regularly every Wednesday during Lent, as they were before. Secretary Hunt's wife continues to receive on Wednesday evenings guests informally invited.

Most of those who were at the President's dinner on Wednesday called on Mrs. Grant at the Executive Mansion Thursday afternoon, and also numerous others. This was the first time she had received there for five years, and in the Red Parlor assembled many of those who used to be seen there while Mrs. Grant was mistress of the house. She received alone, and wore a dark shade of wine-colored velvet, a point lace collar, clasped with a diamond brooch, and large, pear-shaped pearl earrings. General Grant was present for a short time. This was the first large afternoon reception held by a lady in the White House since that held on a Saturday afternoon by Mrs. Garfield last March, which was the only day reception she had. The ladies who had attended the dinner wore, when calling on Thursday on Mrs. Grant, as a badge of honor, for a bouquet de corsage, the nosegays laid at their plates at the dinner.

MRS. FRELINGHUYSEN'S RECEPTION.

Never has a more distinguished company assembled in a private house in Washington than the one that was at Mrs. Frelinghuysen's reception Thursday evening. When he and his wife returned from the dinner party given the same evening by Mr. and Mrs. George Bancroft to ex-Secretary and Mrs. Fish, President Arthur and General Grant, who had also been at that dinner, accompanied them, and Representative and Mrs. Robeson, who were among Mr. Bancroft's guests, also soon followed. Among others observed were the Misses Frelinghuysen, Secretary and Mrs. Hunt, Attorney General Brewster, the Speaker and Mrs. Keifer, Senator Anthony, and numerous others of high social and official position, including the Chinese Minister and suite, the gentlemen of the Japanese Legation, and other ladies and gentlemen of the foreign Legations. The costumes on this occasion were very handsome, every one wearing ball dresses. Senator Mahone was with his wife, who wore more diamonds than any other lady present, and one of the most elaborate toilets seen this winter. Mrs. John Davis, Secretary Frelinghuysen's youngest daughter, wore a pale heliotrope brocade, combined with embossed velvet. She was the handsomest woman present and one of the youngest.

SOCIETY NOTES.

Senator and Mrs. Hill, of Colorado, gave a dinner party Saturday evening to Judge and Mrs. Bassett, of Denver, who are in the city on their return from a bridal trip in the South. Mrs. Bassett, as a young girl, used to visit Mrs. Grant at the Executive Mansion. She was from Galena, Ill. Justice and Mrs. Miller were among the guests at the dinner, Judge Bassett being in Justice Miller's circuit.

On Saturday evening the Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Davis gave a dinner party to their guests, ex-Secretary and Mrs. Fish, which was attended by others of distinction.

THE NATIONAL RIFLES' FAIR.

The National Rifles' Fair which closed Saturday evening at Masonic Temple was one of the most successful enterprises of the kind ever undertaken in the District. The net proceeds of the fair will aggregate, it is estimated, between \$15,000 and \$18,000. The amount realized from votes was \$7,612.50. Mrs. E. B. Hay, having sold the largest number of tickets, received the first prize, a diamond ring, a gold watch, the second prize, was won by Miss Katie E. Harkness; a locket and chain, the third prize, was won by Miss Minnie V. Stodard. A diamond badge was presented to Mr. George W. Evans for his services as secretary of the fair. The fortunate holder of the ticket that drew the grand piano is S. Frank Lathrop, a printer in the Government Printing Office, who invested ten cents at the spinning Jenny in the fair, and in this way drew the ticket which won the piano, worth \$900. A pair of diamond earrings were won by Frank Larzer. It is the intention of the Rifles to begin at once the erection of a handsome new armory somewhere in the northwestern part of the city.

A DEDICATION.

BY WM. WINTER.

In waste and desert places, suffering much,
Lonely my spirit wandered till you came,
And by the magic of your gentle touch
From sorrow freed and raised me out of shame.
So now, when life is beautiful and bright,
And earth a paradise—serene and clear—
Within the realm and vision of delight—
Let me remember you, my own, my dear.

And if in these, my words, be aught of truth,
And this, my soul, in aught be pure and true,
I will not think it was a wasted youth,
That came at last to freedom and to you.

True heart! upon the current of whose love
My days, like roses in a summer brook,
Float by in fragrance and in melody,
Take these—unworthy symbols of my soul,
Made precious by the heavenly faith of thine!
Take them, and though a face of pain looks through
The marble veil of words, thy heart will know
That what was shadow once is sunshine now,
And life all peace and beauty and content—
Redeemed and hallowed by the sacred grace:
Thrice happy he who—favored child of fate—
Finds his Egeria in a mortal guise,
And, hearing all the discords of the world
Blend into music round his flowery way,
Knows hope fulfilled and heaven already won!

A Story for the Children

From Harper's Young People.

I don't know what the almanac man said about it, but Dan said it was the longest, and Dan was certainly the one who understood the matter best.

It began pretty much like other days, only that there was a heavy fog, and Dan knew that it was bad weather for haying and tip-top for fishing. He made up his mind to go fishing. Perhaps, if his mind had not been already made up, he would not have minded so much when his father said at the breakfast table:

"We must get the scythes in good order, so's to take a fair start at the lower meadow to-morrow. Don't let me have to waste time hunting after you, Daniel, when I'm ready to go to it."

Daniel's appetite was gone at once. How he hated to turn that heavy creaking old grindstone! And how sure his father was to find a dozen things to do first, and keep him waiting all the morning! He went around by the sink drain, and dug his bait; he examined his fishing-pole; he put up his lunch; he even tried a worm on the hook; and then he wandered disconsolately around, wishing grindstones had never been invented.

He went to the end of the garden, and leaned sulkily over the low stone wall, and heated the half-ripe harvest apples, and throwing the cores spitefully away. Down the road a few rods lay the millpond, and in the middle of the road near by stood Deacon Skinner's horse and chaise.

Old Whitely had his nose down, and one leg crooked in a meditative fashion. The Deacon was over in the field, making a bargain with Solomon Murray for some young cattle. What fun it would be to start the old horse up, and set him trotting home! Dan could almost hit him with an apple core. He tried two or three, just to see, and then he picked up a smooth round stone from the wall, and sent it singing through the air.

Old Whitely brought up his nose with a jerk, straightened his fore-leg, and started off at a brisk trot, the chaise top tilting and pitching back and forth.

Dan laughed—at least the laugh began to grow, when he caught one glimpse of a frightened little face at the chaise window, and knew that Nannie Dane, the Deacon's little lame grandchild, was in the chaise.

It was only a glimpse, and then the bank of gray fog swallowed Whitely and the chaise, and it seemed to Dan that they had gone straight into the millpond.

"Daniel! Daniel! come on, now, and he spy about it!" called his father, as he moved toward the grindstone; and Dan obeyed, though he felt as if his feet had all at once turned to lead.

Round and round and round; his tough little hands were blistered on the handle, but he did not know it; his mouth and throat were as dry as the stone, but he did not think of it. "Crrr—crrr—crrr," rang the rough, wearisome noise, until his ears were so deafened he did not even hear it; for he was perfectly sure he had killed little Nannie Dane. What would people say? What would they do to him? Hang him, of course; and Dan felt in his heart that he deserved it, and that it would be almost a satisfaction.

"There," said his father at last, "I reckon that'll do, Daniel. You've been faithful and steady at your work, and now you may go fishing."

Dan never knew how he got to Long Pond, or how he passed the slow hours of that dismal day. The misery seemed intolerable, and before evening he had made up his mind that he could bear it no longer. He would go home and tell his father; he would tell everybody. They might hang him; they might do anything they pleased.

Drumming desperately home with his empty basket in his hand, he heard the sound of wheels behind him, dragging slowly through the deep sand. Perhaps that was the sheriff coming to arrest him. Dan's heart beat harder, but he did not look around. The wheels came nearer; they stopped, and some one said:

"Hallo, Daniel! been fishin'?" Fisher-man's luck, hey? Well, jump in here, and I'll give yer a lift."

Before Dan knew it he was over the wheel and sitting beside Deacon Skinner in the old chaise, with Whitely switching his tail right and left as he plodded along.

"Get up, Whitely," urged the Deacon; "it's getting along toward chere-time. Whitely ain't so spry as he used to be, but he's amazin' smart. This mornin' I left Nanny in the shay while I was making a dicker with Solomon Murray, and a keersless thing it was to do, but I'd as soon expected the meetin'-house to run away as Whitely. I reckon something must a' happened; but he just trotted off home as steady as if I'd been driving, and waited at the door for mother to come and get Nanny before he went to the barn."

"Oh, Deacon Skinner," burst out Dan, "it was me, I scart Whitely."

"Did ye now, sonny? Well, there wuzn't any harm done, and I know ye didn't mean to."

"I did, I did," said Dan, sobbing violently from the long strain of excitement. "I didn't know Nanny was in the chaise, and I threw a stone at him."

"Well, well," said the Deacon, rubbing his stubby chin, and looking curiously at Dan. "Beats all what freaks boys will take; but I know ye won't do it agin."

"I never will," said Dan, solemnly. "This has been the awfulest longest day that ever was in the world."

DISCOVERIES AT POMPEII.

The skeleton of a woman with a child was recently discovered at Pompeii in a narrow street about twelve feet above the level of the ancient pavement. It is well-known that the catastrophe of 79 A. D. commenced with a thick shower of small pumice stones, by which the streets of Pompeii were covered up to the roofs of the houses. Stones were succeeded by ashes, which became solid owing to the action of successive showers of boiling water; and these ashes now form the top layer of the materials which cover the ruins of Pompeii. Most of the unhappy beings who remained in the houses after the eruption first reached the town made their escape through the windows, but the greater part of these fugitives could have taken but few steps, and must have been quickly suffocated by the poisonous fumes. With one arm the woman whose skeleton has now been found was clasping the legs of the child, whose body shows contraction in the arms and legs, and a general emaciation. Some jewels found on the female skeleton indicated a person of condition; two bracelets of gold encircled the arm which held the boy, and on the hand were two gold rings, the one set with an emerald on which was engraved a horn of plenty, and the other with an amethyst bearing the head of Mercury.

AN HISTORIC LOVE AFFAIR.

A valentine seen by a *Ledger* reporter, which was sent to a girl in Easton by a youth in Washington, brings to mind the story of a name, and of a name of note in American history. The name of the sender of the missive is Return J. Meigs, and the same Christian name has been in the Meigs family for several generations. Many years ago, in anti-revolutionary days, Jonathan Meigs courted a young lady, who rejected his addresses. Meigs continued to love the girl, and, though too proud and sensitive to try a second time to win her, he determined never to marry anyone else and to live and die a bachelor unless she, of her own volition, relented. After a few years the lady did relent, or perhaps got to know her own heart better, and sent a letter to her former suitor. Meigs got the letter and found in it only the two words: "Return, Jonathan." It was enough; Jonathan did return and made her his wife. Their first child was baptised "Return Jonathan," to commemorate the brief letter that saved the Meigs family from extinction, and from that day to this there has been a Return J. Meigs in every generation. The sender of the valentine referred to is the grandson of Gen. M. C. Meigs, late quartermaster general, now retired.—*Easton (Md.) Ledger*.

A CALIFORNIA GIRL'S ROMANCE.

Eleven years ago Jacob Widber came to a certain farm house in Yolo county, California, and applied for work, stating that he had just arrived in the State from Ohio, and was so reduced in purse that he was obliged to depend on manual labor for a subsistence until something offered. He was quite well educated, and in appearance was altogether more prepossessing than the average California laborer. The farmer to whom he applied gave him employment, his duties being to do odd jobs about the place, and also to assist the women folks about the house. These latter consisted of the farmer's wife, and a daughter about twelve years old, who was exceedingly pretty, and a great favorite in the neighborhood. Young Widber remained on the farm a year, and during the time became very much attached to the little girl, so much so that when he left he kissed her good-by, and told her that when he got rich he would come back and claim her for his little wife. To this agreement she laughingly assented, and her "affianced" left for other scenes.

Subsequently the father of our heroine sold out his farm and moved with his family to Washington Territory, where he became a permanent resident. After two or three years' residence on this coast young Widber returned to his home in Ohio, and one year ago his father died, leaving an estate worth over \$100,000, to which our hero was sole heir. No sooner had he come into possession of this patrimony than he set out for California to find and claim as his bride the little girl who had given the parting promise ten years ago. He was not long in ascertaining her whereabouts, and lost no time in paying a visit to her at her home, near the Columbia. That the meeting was mutually agreeable is evidenced by the fact that the happy couple, now Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Widber, passed through Woodland yesterday en route to Ohio via the Southern Pacific.

A MUTE RECOVERS HIS SENSES.

The Hillsboro (Mo.) *Democrat* some time since reported a strange case of a deaf-mute suddenly recovering his hearing and speech. The man's name is given as Charles Warren, who was engaged at the time shaving hoops at Blackwell, St. Francois county. The Mercedes (Ill.) *Enterprise* of the 4th instant contains an account of the strange occurrence, said to have been written by Warren himself. He says that on the 17th of October, 1881, while shaving hoops he suddenly heard the sound of his drawing-knife as he cut through a knot. He then commenced experimenting by striking his knife on the floor, which to his astonishment produced such a ringing that he ran out of the shop and felt so tremulous that he could scarcely maintain his feet. He immediately quit work, and did nothing but seek information from different sounds and learning to pronounce the names of beasts and fowls, the crowing of a rooster being to him what the roar of a lion would be to one who had always heard. It is said that his mother told him that he would recover his hearing in twenty years after her death, and the day upon which he heard was the twentieth year of her demise. He attributes his good fortune to the efficacy of prayer.

THE MODERN DINNER.

Nowadays an invitation to dinner is like a draft. It is to be honored at sight, but usually with a three days' grace. Unless the receiver honors the demand, or furnishes a reasonable excuse, he may be said to have repudiated his obligations. It is purely a business affair, this dinner-giving and dinner-accepting transaction. Most families keep a set of books in which all dealings of the sort are posted with mathematical accuracy. Single men, who have no helpmate to remind them of their engagements, post their dinner cards where they may be seen every morning, stern monitors of the day's "pleasures." Then there is the call which must be paid by the invited guests within seven days after the dinner has been eaten or declined;

and when this obligation is discharged the honest member of society thanks his stars and takes courage. How different all this is from the visiting and the unconstrained social intercourse of the olden time! The country knows no more the hearty and natural manners of other days. Country festivities have taken on the "airs" of the city without their completeness and polish. There is no heart left in the city "entertainments," as we call it, with unwitting sarcasm, and the freedom and genuineness of country living are going out with the good old customs, and, by and by, we shall come to such a melancholy pass that when one enters a house without a ticket he shall be ignominiously handed over to the police as a social tramp.—*New York Times*.

A NICE NEW GAME.

Some of the old saints have now invented a new kind of pedro. Whenever anybody catches anybody's else pedro, the party winning has the right to kiss the other five times. The game is played with an equal division of the sexes. The other evening old Bishop—fixed up a pack of cards with nine pedros, and started a game right in among some of the prettiest girls of the ward. It happened, however, that the girls anticipated his little game, and had a pack already without any pedros in. They rung in the cold deck on the old fellow, and started the game. He made some big bids, expecting to capture some pedros, and got set back on the board every time. All this time the girls kept exclaiming: "Oh, ain't this a nice game; so exciting!" After playing an hour the old fellow didn't see the color of a single pedro, and the glances and giggles of the girls caused him to suspect that the daughters of Zion were rather getting the best of him. He finally got so far off the board that he was, comparatively speaking, out of sight, and finally gave up the place to a young man, who was seated near by watching the game. In a twinkling the girls transposed the packs again, and for the next two hours the sounds of smacks that young man won could be heard all over the room.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

FASHIONABLE FANCIES.

Sapphires are fashionable for engagement rings.

Great bunches of tulips are worn with outdoor costumes.

Pink hyacinths are worn with pink, white, or black dresses.

Pink and silver are much admired combinations for evening toilettes.

Presbyterian blue is the very deepest and latest shade of that color.

Open-work embroidery of black silk on net in patterns over six inches in depth will be much used for trimming black grenadines and velvets next season. The embroidery is remarkably handsome in design and remarkably low in price.

Some exceedingly pretty spring dresses of pale gray and fawn colored repped silk are effectively brightened with deep collars and cuffs, sashes, and other accessories of Bayadere striped satin, in colors of royal blue and gold, olive, and silver, peacock blue, garnet, and ruby.

Cream white surah neckerchiefs a yard wide, with silk borders covered with turquoise blue, lilac, navy blue, or cardinal polka dots, are worn with bodices cut V shape in the neck. They are folded Quaker fashion, with the pointed ends tucked between two of the buttons of the waist.

Medici lace much resembling fine torchon will be much used for trimming children's suits, collars, and aprons this year. It has also proved a very durable trimming lace for underclothing. It comes in graceful but compact designs, and can be more successfully laundered than any other of the linen laces now in use.

A novel style of arranging the coiffure is as follows: The whole of the hair is brought back and tied low in the neck. It is then divided evenly, and formed into two separate plaits. The front hair being drawn back forms a low ridge where the forehead and hair meet. At the back of this ridge one of the plaited strands of hair goes, encircling the head, lying quite flat, as in the pictures of Sappho. The other strand is arranged in a low knot behind, and holds the ends of the braid which encircles the head. For full-dress occasions fine pearls are woven in these plaits.

FASHIONS IN ENGLAND.

The Queen held the first drawing-room of the season at Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Christian, Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Cambridge and the Duke and Duchess of Teck were present. About eighty presentations were made to her majesty. The following account of the dresses worn by the Queen and Princesses is given in the *Court Circular* this morning:

"The queen wore a dress and train of black silk, trimmed with jet embroidery and fringe, and a long tulle veil, surmounted by a coronet of diamonds. Her majesty also wore a necklace, brooches, and earrings of diamonds, the ribbon and star of the Order of the Garter, the Orders of Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, Louise of Prussia, the Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese Orders, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Family Order. Her royal highness the Princess of Wales wore a dress of golden brown wool (of British manufacture) over a jupon of golden brown velvet, with deep volant of brown marabout feathers bordered in gold, with a train of velvet lined in wool and bordered marabouts and gold. Head-dress, a tiara of diamonds, feathers and veil; Indian ornaments and the Orders of Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, St. Catherine of Russia, and the Danish Family Order. Her royal highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein wore a dress of pearl gray satin, handsomely trimmed with old Irish point, pearl trimmings, and bunches of red poppies; ornaments, diamonds and emeralds; head-dress, a tiara of diamonds, plumes and veil. Her royal highness Princess Beatrice wore a train of two shades of Etruscan satin with a dress of cream and gold Etruscan brocade with bouquets of flowers, head-dress, feathers, veil and diamonds; ornaments, diamonds. Orders: Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Family Order."—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The chief officer of the steamer City of Lincoln, formerly the Massachusetts, reports that on Sunday afternoon last, while off Fire Island, near New York, Captain Stuart, while in a fit of delirium tremens, jumped overboard and was drowned.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

POTATOES A LA MAITRE D'HOTEL.—The first Bermuda potatoes should be cooked a la maitre d'hotel. It must be remembered that new potatoes, being immature, require thorough cooking. Boil the potatoes beforehand, then slice; take a pint of fresh milk, a tablespoonful of butter, some flour, so as to thicken slightly, and add a tablespoonful of thoroughly chopped parsley, with some salt and a little white pepper; boil these ingredients, so as to get them smooth, then introduce the sliced potatoes; give a final boil and serve.

SPONGE CAKE.—Four large eggs, two cups of flour, two cups of sugar, even full; beat the two parts of the egg separate, the whites to a froth; then beat them together, stir in the flour, and without delay put into the oven.

HAM PIE.—Pick the ham into small, fine pieces, boil a cup of rice, beat up two eggs, and stir in with the ham and rice; season with pepper, salt, and onions; put into a deep pan, and bake in a moderate oven.

CHEESE SANDWICHES.—Take two-thirds of good cheese, grated, and one-third of butter, add a little cream; pound all together in a mortar, then spread it on slices of brown bread; lay another slice over each, press them gently together, and cut them in small square pieces.

CRACKNELS.—Beat up eight eggs with the same number of spoonfuls of water, and a grated nutmeg; pour them on three quarts of flour and add sufficient water to make the flour into a thick paste; then mix with it two pounds of butter, roll it into cracknels, and bake them on tin plates.

FRIED POTATOES.—Pare, wash, and slice thin, raw potatoes, lay in ice-cold water an hour or two, dry in a napkin; have a pan of hot lard, put in a few at a time, and fry a light brown; sprinkle with salt, turn with a fork, take out with a wire spoon, and put in a dish and set in the oven until all are cooked. To be eaten hot or cold.

IRISH CABBAGE.—Chop a fine medium-sized head of cabbage, and season with butter, pepper, and salt; add water enough to cook until very tender, then, when almost dry, add a cup of thick, sweet cream, and simmer a few minutes longer. A good way is to use half cream and half vinegar, for those who prefer cabbage with vinegar, or those who have no cream can use milk thickened with a little flour.

A CHEAP AND EXCELLENT BLUING.—Bluing made from the following recipe has been in constant use in many families for several years. It does not injure the clothes, and the cost is trifling compared with any other bluing. The quantity here noted has been known to last a family of six persons a year. Get one ounce of oxalic acid, one ounce of powdered Chinese or Prussian blue (either will do), one quart of soft water. Put in a bottle and shake it well for two or three days after mixing it; after this do not shake it all. If any of it settles at the bottom, you can fill the bottle after using the first water. If when you buy it is not powdered, ask the druggist to powder it in a mortar for you. Unless the Chinese or Prussian blue is pure it will not be a success; it will precipitate and make the clothes spotted.—*Demorest's Monthly*.

COLD-WATER TREATMENT FOR BURNS.—A piece of linen or muslin wet with cold water wrapped around the burned part—be it body or limb—will give immediate relief, and if continued will effect a cure. Three or more folds should envelop the part and be kept wet. It will exclude the air, relieve all pain, and cure the burn. Many persons from the effects of burns by fire, scalding water, or steam, have suffered intense agony for hours before being relieved by death. The application of wet bandages as named would have relieved their pain and made their last hours comparatively comfortable. In case of injury from a scald the clothes next the skin should not be removed, as it would tear off the skin and flesh. Wet them thoroughly, and bandage them on the part or parts, and keep all wet with cold water. The fire will be extracted and in most cases the skin will not be broken.

COOKING CLUBS afford diversion for New York young women during the Lenten season. The *American Queen* gives this description of one: Several girls form such a club, agree to bring or send a suitable dish cooked by their own hands to each meeting of the club, arrange where and when these meetings are to be held, and then proceed to the difficult task of balloting for the men who are to be asked to lend their necessary and enjoyable presence, and who shall chiefly aid in demolishing the viands which shall be prepared. Meetings are generally held once a week, and the different girls in the club take turns in holding the meetings at their respective houses. When the evening arrives the articles are duly laid out on the dining-room table and arranged by the girl at whose house the club meets. These prepared articles may each be tied ticketed with the name of the maker, or may be sent anonymously. If the former course be followed, a vote is generally taken at the close of the evening, and, at the last meeting of all, the fortunate possessor of the largest number of votes receives a prize. Perhaps, though, the latter plan, where the articles are sent anonymously, is the more enjoyable, as it gives an opportunity for each person to guess who was the maker of this or that dish, for any absurd reason, and much merriment is consequently induced. In many cooking clubs the girls, attired in picturesque peasant or waiter-girl costumes, serve the viands themselves, which of course becomes only the more palatable in consequence.

THE TINIEST BABY ON RECORD.

There was born on Sunday morning last, to C. F. Spencer and wife, residing on Sixth street, between German and Parade, a son and heir, who, since his advent into this mundane sphere has received more attention than falls to the lot of average humanity under like conditions. After being dressed in some hurriedly prepared garments, he weighed, all told, one and three-quarter pounds. He was so tiny that the attendants were almost afraid to touch him for fear that he would vanish from their sight, and he would have been lost in the ordinary infant clothing usually at hand on such occasions. He is perfect in form and feature; his face about the size of a watch, and an ordinary finger ring will slip with ease over his hand and arm to the elbow; he is lusty, withal, and makes his wants known in a very decided manner. This little midwife is the joy of its parents, the very apple of their eye, as it were, and is pronounced by all who have seen him to be just "too cute for anything." Long may he wave.— *Erie Herald*.